

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A connection structure, comprising:

an optical element including an optical surface;

an optical fiber, an end surface of the optical fiber having a convex part; and

a connecting part that joins the convex part of the end surface of the optical fiber and the optical ~~surface~~ surface, wherein the connecting part is composed of a material and has a structure usable to secure optical transmission between the optical element and the optical fiber without requiring accurate alignment between the optical element and the optical fiber.

2. (Original) The connection structure according to claim 1, at least a part of the end surface of the optical fiber facing the optical surface.

3. (Currently Amended) A connection structure, comprising:

an optical element including an optical surface;

an optical fiber including a core and a clad, an end surface of the core protruding from an end surface of the clad, and the core and the clad forming a portion defining a convex at an end part of the optical fiber; and

a connecting part that joins an end surface of the core and the optical ~~surface~~ surface, wherein the connecting part is composed of a material and has a structure usable to secure optical transmission between the optical element and the optical fiber without requiring accurate alignment between the optical element and the optical fiber.

4. (Original) The connection structure according to claim 3, at least a part of the end surface of the core facing the optical surface.

5. (Original) The connection structure according to claim 3, a refractive index of the connecting part being almost equal to a refractive index of the core of the optical fiber.

6. (Original) The connection structure according to claim 3, the refractive index of the connecting part being greater than a refractive index of the clad of the optical fiber.

7-8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The connection structure according to claim 6, an area that surrounds the connecting part being covered by a sealant at the end part.

10. (Original) The connection according to claim 9, a refractive index of the sealant being smaller than the refractive index of the core of the optical fiber and the refractive index of the connecting part.

11. (Original) The connection structure according to claim 10, the refractive index of the connecting part being almost equal to the refractive index of the core of the optical fiber, and the refractive index of the sealant being almost equal to the refractive index of the clad of the optical fiber.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) The connection structure according to claim 3, the connecting part being formed by hardening a liquid material that is hardened by charging energy.

14. (Original) The connection structure according to claim 13, the connecting part being composed of ultraviolet curing resin.

15. (Original) The connection structure according to claim 3, the optical element being at least one of a surface emitting semiconductor laser, a semiconductor light emitting diode, an electroluminescent device, and a photo diode.

16. (Original) An optical module, comprising:

the connection structure according to claim 3, and
a semiconductor chip electrically coupled to the optical element.

17. (Original) An optical transmission unit, comprising:

an optical fiber;

a light emitting element including an emitting plane, and enabling a light that is emitted from the emitting plane into an end surface of the optical fiber;

a semiconductor chip electrically coupled to the light emitting element;

a light receiving element including a plane of incidence, and introducing a light that is emitted from the other end surface of the optical fiber through the plane of incidence; and

a semiconductor chip electrically coupled to the light receiving element;

the connection structure according to claim 3, the connection structure including at least one of a connection structure between the light emitting element and the optical fiber, and a connection structure between the light receiving element and the optical fiber.

18. (Currently Amended) A connection method of coupling an optical element and an optical fiber, comprising:

(a) forming a connecting part precursor by applying a liquid agent to at least one of an end surface of the optical fiber and an optical surface of the optical element; and

(b) forming a connecting part by hardening the connecting part precursor while joining the end surface of the optical fiber and the optical surface via the connecting part precursor,

wherein the end surface of the optical fiber has a convex part, part, and the connecting part is composed of a material and has a structure usable to secure optical transmission between the optical element and the optical fiber without requiring accurate alignment between the optical element and the optical fiber.

19. (Original) The connection method of coupling an optical element and an optical fiber according to claim 18, step (b) further comprising:

joining the end surface of the optical fiber and the optical surface via the connecting part precursor while making at least a part of the end surface of the optical fiber face the optical surface.

20. (Currently Amended) A connection method of coupling an optical element and an optical fiber, comprising:

(a) forming a connecting part precursor by applying a liquid agent to at least one of an end surface of the core of the optical fiber and an optical surface of the optical element; and

(b) forming a connecting part by hardening the connecting part precursor while joining the end surface of the core and the optical surface via the connecting part precursor,
wherein the end surface of the core protrudes from an end surface of the clad,
and the core and the clad form a portion defining a convex part at an end part of the optical fiber, and the connecting part is composed of a material and has a structure usable to secure optical transmission between the optical element and the optical fiber without requiring accurate alignment between the optical element and the optical fiber.

21. (Original) The connection method of coupling an optical element and an optical fiber according to claim 20, step (b) further comprising:

joining the end surface of the core and the optical surface via the connecting part precursor while making at least a part of the end surface of the core face the optical surface.

22. (Original) The connection method of coupling an optical element and an optical fiber according to claim 20, the height of the end surface of the core being different from the height of the end surface of the clad.

23. (Original) The connection method of coupling an optical element and an optical fiber according to claim 18, the liquid agent being applied by an ink-jet method.
24. (Original) The connection method of coupling an optical element and an optical fiber according to claim 18, the connecting part precursor being hardened by charging energy.
25. (Previously Presented) The connection structure according to claim 1, the optical element having a column section, and the optical surface being placed on the top surface of the column section.
26. (Previously Presented) The connection structure according to claim 3, the optical element having a column section, and the optical surface being placed on the top surface of the column section.
27. (Previously Presented) The connection structure according to claim 1, wherein the connecting part secures optical transmission between the optical element and the optical fiber without precise alignment of the optical element and the optical fiber.
28. (Previously Presented) The connection structure according to claim 3, wherein the connecting part secures optical transmission between the optical element and the optical fiber without precise alignment of the optical element and the optical fiber.
29. (Previously Presented) The connection method of coupling an optical element and an optical fiber according to claim 18, wherein the connecting part secures optical transmission between the optical element and the optical fiber without precise alignment of the optical element and the optical fiber.
30. (Previously Presented) The connection method of coupling an optical element and an optical fiber according to claim 20, wherein the connecting part secures optical transmission between the optical element and the optical fiber without precise alignment of the optical element and the optical fiber.